



Sustenance

June 2008 Vol. 5, No. 1

The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

CHC Celebrates 15th Anniversary!

The vibrant annual orchid exhibit at the U.S.

Botanic Garden provided a colorful setting for CHC's 15th anniversary gala reception in February. Our 250 guests included members of Congress, senior officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and corporate and nonprofit leaders, as well as current Emerson and Leland Hunger Fellows and alumni, and CHC board members and staff.

The event opened with a special address by the USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, **Nancy Montanez-Johner**, who charged the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Fellows to serve with purpose and faith during the program and to continue to dedicate their lives to public service

after their fellowships end. Master of Ceremonies, CHC executive director **Edward M. Cooney**, welcomed the guests and paid tribute to the Emerson and Leland Fellows and alumni now serving throughout the United States and in over 20 countries around the world.

We then proudly honored three outstanding national leaders who have dedicated their lives and their work to fighting hunger and poverty in the U.S. and across the globe:

- **Representative Frank Wolf** (R-VA), who was presented with *The CHC Founder's Award* by CHC founder, **Ambassador Tony P. Hall** ;
 - **Representative Rosa DeLauro** (D-CT), who was presented with *The Bill*
- continued on page 2*

Farm Bill Update

At our press deadline the House and Senate have passed the Conference Report on the Farm Bill with sufficient majorities to override a threatened Presidential veto. This legislation, when signed into law, will permanently authorize the Emerson/Leland Hunger Fellowship programs through the Congressional Hunger Center. Funding will still come through the Agriculture Appropriation Committee.

The Nutrition Title of the Farm Bill will substantially expand benefits for low income participants of the Food Stamp Program by increasing the standard deduction for smaller households, and by increasing the monthly minimum benefit and the dependant care deduction. Asset limits will now be

indexed and certain sources of income (such as retirement, education, and certain military payments) will be excluded. Fresh fruits and vegetable snacks will be made available to school children and Community Food Projects will be funded at five million dollars per year. In the international food aid provisions of the Farm Bill, there will be a "safebox" created which will prevent the food for development programs in the regular Food for Peace annual budget from being diverted into short-term emergency food aid; another new measure is a USDA administered pilot program for purchasing food in developing countries to help with food emergencies.



Rep. DeLauro and Rep. Emerson (center) with current Emerson Fellows Fatima Carson (far left) and JoEllen Pederson (far right).



From left to right, 3rd class Leland Fellow Anne-Claire Herve; 14th class Emerson Fellow Isha Plynton; Senator Tom Harkin; Rep. James P. McGovern; and Will Perreault, 14th class Emerson Fellow.



From left to right, Katherine Chen, 14th class Emerson Fellow; Amb. Tony Hall; Rep. Frank Wolf (center); and Corey Yarbrough, also a 14th class Emerson Fellow.

Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



The most dramatic development at the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) has been the restoration of our funding for the start of the 15th class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows and the completion of the 4th class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows. CHC has received the necessary funds in the 2008 fiscal year to continue our mission, and we thank all the Emerson and Leland alumni for the thoughtful and persuasive letters sent to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee. These 50 letters demonstrated how a dedicated group of committed leaders could have such a magnificent impact on the communities and families with whom they lived and worked in the U.S. and around the world. I would also like to thank the 50 field and policy site partners and allied national and international organizations for their letters of support.

Representatives Emerson and McGovern

also showed once again what courageous models of leadership they are to all of us at CHC and our alumni. They were tireless in their pursuit of educating members of Congress on the importance of our fellowship to poor and hungry people.

CHC's 15th anniversary was a huge success (see pages 1–3 for full details). We honored three longtime friends of CHC: Senator Tom Harkin, Representative Rosa DeLauro, and our founding board member, Representative Frank Wolf. Over 250 friends, alumni, and Leland and Emerson Fellows join us on February 27th at the U.S. Botanic Garden. CHC's board and staff partnered with our private sector and foundation friends to raise over \$314,000 at the event.

In January, I visited two Leland Fellows in El Salvador and Costa Rica with my favorite volunteer interpreter, **Lynn Parker**. In El Salvador Michelle Petrotta is working with the Share Foundation to evaluate the impact of

a Millennium Challenge Corporation compact grant to the government of El Salvador. The compact grant includes funding for the Trans-American Highway through El Salvador, and Michelle is conducting research in the villages that will be affected by the construction of this highway. On my visit, Michelle and I interviewed villagers who either had mixed or hostile reactions to the government's approach to economic development. The major concern focused on the potential divergence of water needed for farming by the large dams and the potential cyanide pollution of the water supply by excessive mining operations. One village opposed the highway since the current proposed path will run through the village, displacing most of the inhabitants. Many of these villagers were previously displaced by the civil war in the 1990's. Michelle and CHC staff will work with Share Foundation to help provide advocacy on the compact

grant to find a more sensible compromise on the proposed compact.

I was also hosted by the World Food Program on a rural school lunch program visit, and site visits to a health clinic for pregnant women, infant, and young children and to a village of people displaced by a volcanic eruption. During our trip, we experienced three moderate earthquakes in El Salvador.

I also visited with Leland Fellow Meagan Keefe, who is based at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Costa Rica. The project Meagan is working on is entitled "Making Services Work for the Rural Poor," and her focus country is Guatemala. The results will contribute to a multicountry study, which includes similar research in Uganda, India, and Kyrgyzstan. Meagan will complete her work in Central America and continue this focus during her policy placement in 2008 and 2009 in Washington, D.C. at IFPRI's headquarters. ●

CHC Celebrates

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Emerson National Hunger Leader Award by CHC board co-chair, **Representative Jo Ann Emerson** (R-MO);

- **Senator Tom Harkin** (D-IA), who was presented with *The Mickey Leland International Hunger Leader Award* by CHC board co-chair, **Representative James P. McGovern** (D-MA).

After the award presentations, **Margaret M. Zeigler**, CHC deputy director, took the stage to recognize our lead sponsor, Altria Group, Incorporated, and to thank the organization for its 15 years of support. Altria has provided generous support for all our initiatives and in 2008 funded a five-year strategic planning process (see article on page 11) that is shaping the future mission, vision, and programming of CHC.

Other notable guests at the event included founding CHC executive director, **Ambassador Arthur E. ("Gene") Dewey**; **Representative Henry Bonilla**; **David Beckmann** (**Bread for the World**); **Bob Greenstein** (**Center on Budget & Policy Priorities**); **Jim Weill** (**Food Research and Action Center**); **Eric Schockman** (**Mazon: A Jewish Response to**

Hunger); **Jerry Hagstrom** (**National Journal's Congress Daily**); **Barbara S. Belmont** (**School Nutrition Association**); and **Cheryl Morden** (**International Fund for Agricultural Development**).

Corporate, foundation, and individual contributions made in connection with the anniversary gala event totaled over \$314,000. A special *continued on page 3*

CHC Celebrates

continued from page 2

thank you to all of our contributors, and especially to all of our sponsors who made this event possible:

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International Relief &

Development

MAZON: A Jewish Response

to Hunger

National Confectioners

Association

North American Millers'

Association

Philip & Linda Lesourd Lader

Foundation

Students Team up to Fight

Hunger

We would also like to thank

the CHC gala committee

members for their time,

commitment, and energy in

making this event a success:

Gala Host Committee Members

The Honorable Jo Ann

Emerson

The Honorable Jim McGovern

The Honorable Dennis Hertel

Kristin Anderson

Victoria Barnes

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Atalie Ebersole

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Angelina Pérez

Sherian Roggeband

Danielle Romanetti

Justin Rone

Jim Scheibel

Keith Stern

Ellen Teller

Mary Catherine Toker

Margaret Zeigler •



CHC's Legal Eagles at the gala! (From left to right) Sharon Bernstein; David Rosenberg, Ford and Harrison, LLP; CHC Deputy Director Margaret Zeigler; Jeff Bernstein, Goozman, Bernstein, and Markuski; Sherian Roggeband, CHC human resources consultant; and Jeff Sun, Ford and Harrison, LLP.



Celebrating 15 Years of Fighting Hunger by Developing Leaders

This event was made possible through the generosity of the following sponsors:



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Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Emerson Program Staff

In Memoriam

CHC was saddened to hear of the recent death of Jimmy Heath, Hunger Fellow Alumnus. As a National Hunger Fellow in the 6th Class (1999–2000) Jimmy worked with Operation Food Search in St. Louis, Missouri and the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C. Following his fellowship, Jimmy continued his work as a tireless advocate for the homeless, honed his skills as a photographer, and served as editor for *Street Vibes*, a monthly street newspaper providing relevant discussion of homelessness, poverty, and other related social justice issues in Cincinnati. Jimmy was known to all as a brave person with a strong commitment to the homeless, and he will be sorely missed.

Emerson Program Update

The last few months have been busy and exciting for the 14th Class of Emerson Hunger Fellows and staff. The Fellows completed their field work, presented their Hunger Free Community Reports, made the transition from field placements to Washington, participated in more than 10 days of policy training, and began working with policy site host organizations.

The Emerson program staff also began the difficult task of selecting the 15th Class of Emerson Fellows. For the first time, the program staff conducted all 75 semi-finalist interviews at CHC's new office space.

The coming months will find the staff matching the members of the 15th Class with their field site host organizations and celebrating the 14th Class commencement on July 23rd, 2008. We hope that many alumni, supervisors, and friends of the program can join us for this special event. ●

Emerson Program Policy Training

The 14th Class of Fellows gathered in Washington in February for their policy training, during which they shared their field experiences with each other and prepared for their policy placements. The Fellows learned about the legislative process and its impacts on social change through a series of briefings given by experts on anti-hunger and antipoverty legislative initiatives, the federal budget process, economic justice issues, and health policy (see details below).

They also participated in skill-development workshops that focused on presentation skills, networking, and policy writing to prepare them for their policy work. Finally, Emerson

14th Class Fellows, Fatima Carson and Elizabeth Oquendo, during policy training 2008.



Program training continued to provide the opportunity to explore individual, collective, and institutional factors that influence change, and the connections between hunger and other manifestations of social inequality, particularly racism.

Leaders from a plethora of anti-hunger organizations and government agencies participated in the Fellows' training. Highlights included:

- Meetings with high-ranking officials in both legislative and executive branches of government: breakfast and discussion with CHC Board Co-Chair **Rep. James McGovern** (D-MA) and a visit with **Undersecretary Nancy Montanez-Johner** of USDA for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNS).

- A "Welcome to D.C." dinner and discussion with alumni. Special thanks to alumni who participated in the discussion facilitated by **Shanique Streete** (13th Class) and **Philip Colvin** (11th Class).

- Learning about the role that Hill staff play in affecting policy during a panel facilitated by **Jessica Frederick**, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, and comprised of **Stacy McBride**, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, and **Indivar Dutta-Gupta** (12th Class), House Committee on Ways and Means.

- A panel on the 2007 Farm Bill with advocates including **Alan Hunt**, Northeast-Midwest Institute; **George Braley**, America's Second Harvest; and **Ellen Vollinger** of the Food Research and Action Center.

- An overview of the FY '09 U.S. Budget Proposal by **Martha Coven** of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, who shared her expertise on the Federal Budget process.

- A panel on Child Nutrition Reauthorization that included a Hill staff member, a USDA official, and anti-hunger advocates including **Eric Steiner**, USDA FNS deputy administrator of special nutrition programs; **Derek**

Miller, Senate Committee on Agriculture; **Ed Cooney**, CHC; **Ellen Teller**, Food Research and Action Center; and **Marshall Matz** of the Child Nutrition Forum.

● A lively discussion with the Alliance to End Hunger's **Max Finberg**, former Emerson Program Director **John Kelly**, now working at the Democratic National Committee, and **Maya Goines**, formerly of Service

14th Class Fellows, Adrienne Alexander and William Perreault, with 13th Class alumna, Srinidhi Vijaykumar at policy training's Alumni Dinner.



14th Class Fellows, Corey Yarbrough and Katherine Chen, with CHC Board Co-Chair Rep. Jo Ann Emerson at CHC's 15th Anniversary Gala event.

Employees International Union (SEIU), about different strategies for using electoral politics to fight hunger and poverty.

Further training on specific policy issues related to hunger and poverty involved

briefings by many experts, academics, and practitioners including:

● **Roxy Caines**, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and 12th Class alumna; **Rourke O'Brien**, New America Foundation; **Annette Hiatt**, Land Loss Prevention Project; and **Derek Douglas**, Washington Office of the Governor for the State of New York, provided an introduction to economic justice policies.

● **Kim Bailey** (10th Class) and **Beth Wikler** (12th Class) of Families USA, **Desmond Brown** of Catholic Charities USA, and **Frank Abdale** of the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies, briefed Fellows on current health and nutrition policy.

● Professor **Rhonda Williams**, Case Western Reserve University, gave a historical overview of race and federal policy.

● **Doyle Canning**, smartMeme, led a three-hour multimedia workshop on the use of narrative power analysis as a tool for thinking about the influences that affect social change.

Fellows also participated in the 2008 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference hosted by the Food Research and Action Center, America's Second Harvest, and the National Child and Adult Care Food Program Forum (CACFP). At the conference, **Rachel Winch** described her field work project at a workshop on "Expanding Federal Nutrition Programs: What's Working in Rural Communities." She spoke about using phone-based strategies such as telephonic signatures to help increase access to food stamps in rural communities. ●

Hunger Free Community Report Highlights

As part of their policy training, Emerson Fellows described their field work projects from 10 communities across the U.S. in a public forum for local and national advocates. Their field projects addressed child nutrition, community food security, food stamps, public health and nutrition, senior nutrition, and hunger in immigrant communities.

Hunger Crisis in Allegheny County: Increasing Access to the Federal Food Stamp Program is a 10-minute outreach video that addresses the myths and barriers surrounding the Federal Food Stamp Program. The video also provides information about local programs that are tackling barriers to participation in the Food Stamp Program. By **Corey Yarbrough**

The Food Security for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Project provides city-level data on food insecurity among seniors and persons with disabilities living in Seattle's subsidized housing. The report also identifies the barriers that prevent seniors and persons with disabilities from benefiting from the emergency food system and provides recommendations on ways to increase access to the system for isolated and vulnerable adults. By **Brad Johnson**

Drake University and the Congressional Hunger Center's Presidential Voter Education Guide on Hunger Issues illustrates the hunger and food security platform of six of the 2008 Presidential candidates. The guide highlights the candidates' ideas on universal school breakfast, community food security, and expanding

food stamp eligibility. By **Isha Plynton** and **William Perreault**
Identifying Best Practices in Diabetes Prevention is a comprehensive toolkit that forms the foundation for the potential involvement of Food & Friends, a D.C.-based nutrition services organization, in primary diabetes prevention. The toolkit's five modules draw upon health sciences literature and two original studies to offer specific recommendations for determining the target populations, intervention strategies, and program duration of diabetes prevention initiatives in Washington, D.C. By **Lindsey Baker** and **David Tian**

Energy Clinic: A Toolbox for Helping Families Heat and Eat outlines the need for both food and fuel assistance in combating food insecurity. The report is being used to encourage replication of the Energy Clinic model, which provides families of Boston Medical Center's patients with assistance on food stamp applications and utility discounts in medical-legal partnerships nationwide. By **Bianca Pullen**

After the Storms: Turning the Spotlight on Senior Hunger explores the unique post-hurricane barriers to food security faced by seniors, and provides empirically driven estimates of the number of seniors living in poverty throughout New Orleans and the surrounding region. By **Gagan Gupta**

For copies of any of these reports of Fellows' work, please contact Joy Wiskin, Emerson program associate, at jwiskin@hungercenter.org. ●

14th Class Policy Site Placements

We welcome new policy site host organizations to the Emerson program, are grateful for the continued contributions of veteran host organizations, and extend our thanks to all supervisors!

- America's Second Harvest
- Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
- Center for American Progress
- Center for Community Change
- Corporation for Enterprise Development
- Families USA
- Food Research and Action Center
- House Hunger Caucus
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs*
- Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
- Migrant Legal Action Program
- National Coalition for the Homeless
- National Council of La Raza
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
- NETWORK Education Program
- Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships, and Outreach, FNS, USDA*
- RESULTS Educational Fund

* Denotes new site

Alumni Highlights

Alexandra Cawthorne, 11th Class Alumna

Alexandra Cawthorne's field experience as a Fellow in New Orleans helped cement her belief that having a connection to people is fundamental for doing policy work. Alex says that her fellowship year still informs the work she does in Washington, D.C. After the fellowship, Alex worked as a research associate at the Citizens'



Alexandra Cawthorne,
11th Class alumna.

Commission on Civil Rights and as a legislative assistant on the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, focusing primarily on housing-related issues. Alex says that her work on the Hill was a crucial learning experience and that she felt empowered by seeing that "change agents can work on the federal level." Alex then found the perfect opportunity to explore another arena of policy-making, this time as a research associate at the Center for American Progress (CAP). She is now working

on two of CAP's Programs: Poverty and Prosperity and Women's Health and Rights. Alex hopes eventually to pursue a degree in public health with a focus on nutrition and continue working in the anti-poverty field. About her experience as a Fellow, Alex says, "I'm really grateful to have been part of the fellowship and CHC. I wouldn't be where I am if the fellowship hadn't opened up so many opportunities."

David Coffman, 13th Class Alumnus

David Coffman currently serves as Community Food Security Coordinator at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana, where he first worked as an Emerson Fellow. He has been working on a variety of initiatives aimed at helping to rebuild the food system of southern Louisiana: he is completing a gap analysis and a food

system assessment of the 23 parishes served by the Food Bank, working to help implement the recommendations made by the New Orleans Food Policy Council, and setting up the foundation for a community learning garden. David says that there is a lot of excitement surrounding food policy and that he hopes to someday see a statewide food policy council active in Louisiana. He has loved working at the Food Bank, ever since he began there as a Fellow. David says, "I feel guilty for being excited to go to work every day." He says that his current job is "the job for which I created my undergraduate major in sustainable development." He first became interested in community food security during the Emerson Program's field training and plans to dedicate his career to training and educating others about community food security practices and applications. ●



David Coffman, 13th Class alumnus.

Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

From October 2007 to April 2008, Leland Program Director Jose Ravano, Associate Director Elizabeth Whelan, and CHC Executive Director Ed Cooney traveled throughout the world to visit Leland Fellows and witness their growth as anti-hunger leaders while simultaneously contributing to the goals of their host organizations.

Site visits are an integral part of the Leland program. These visits not only allow staff to better understand the work that Leland Fellows are undertaking, but also provide the opportunity to see firsthand the conditions and cultures in which the Fellows live and to understand the goals and operations of host organizations. The visits also afford staff the opportunity to meet and discuss progress with Leland Field Supervisors, learn about country-specific issues, and establish partnerships for future placements.

Jose and Elizabeth traveled together to Uganda,

Kenya, and India to see the work of **Emily Bancroft**, **Carmen Jaquez** and **Nicole Woo**. Jose also visited **Eric Haglund** in Niger, **Daniele Nyirandutiye** and **Rachel Bingham** in Mali, **Ira Frydman** in Malawi, **Erica Phillips** in Haiti, and **Meaghan Murphy** in Mongolia. Elizabeth traveled to visit **Francisco Del Pozo** in Rome, **Alexis Jones** in South Africa, **Adam Norikane** in Zambia, **Kurt Burja** in Cambodia, and **Alder Keleman** in Mexico, while CHC Executive Director Ed Cooney visited **Michelle Petrotta** in El Salvador and **Meagan Keefe** in Costa Rica.

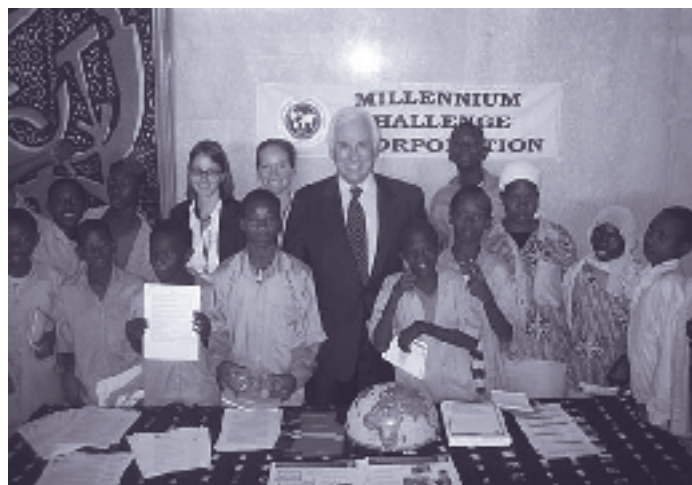
CHC staff members have seen Emily Bancroft mobilize and organize students around HIV/AIDS issues; they have heard members of the community that Michelle Petrotta works with in El Salvador voice their concerns about the possible consequences that Millennium Challenge



Meaghan Murphy interviews Mercy Corps client in Mongolia.

Corporation projects will have on their livelihoods; and they have seen Mercy Corps clients discuss the impact of the economic programs and loans that Meaghan Murphy is helping Mercy Corps provide in Mongolia. CHC staff also have accompanied Carmen Jaquez in her study of herder marketing opportunities in Kenya, and Nicole Woo in her analysis of the impact of school feeding programs in India. Fellows such as Ira Frydman, who works on disaster risk reduction in Malawi, and Daniele Nyirandutiye, whose efforts revolve around nutrition in Mali, work closely with partnering organizations. The site visits have served to highlight the important collaborative work taking place among organizations working in the field.

Of equal importance, site visits also allow CHC staff to better comprehend the challenges that all Fellows face in their day-to-day experiences, including issues such as communication or language, transport, and food. In addition to gaining knowledge and skills during work hours, Leland Fellows also must become able to adapt to local culture, language, and custom. While visiting Fellows, Leland staff have the opportunity to understand the security situation in each country and ensure that contingency plans are available should a security crisis arise. ●



Racey Bingham, current Leland Fellow placed with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), along with Leland alumna Sylvie Doutriaux, and John Danilovich, CEO of the MCC, on his visit to Bamako, Mali.

Leland School Feeding Photography Project

The Leland program is carrying out a photography project that examines different approaches to international school feeding. Associate Director **Elizabeth Whelan**, a professional freelance photographer, has already traveled to Mali to photograph Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Mali and the communities they work with as they prepare for an upcoming McGovern-Dole Food for Education Grant in April 2008. Elizabeth will travel again to Mali in the fall of 2008 to capture the progress and short-term impact of

the CRS-implemented Food for Education Program. Elizabeth also combined her site visits in March 2008 to photographically document the school feeding programs of the Akshaya Patra Foundation in India and World Food Program in Cambodia. The photo project intends to raise awareness about various international school feeding methods and demonstrate the benefits and challenges of implementing such programs. The photo project will be disseminated in the spring of 2009. ●



Photo by Elizabeth Whelan

Close to one million children in India receive a hot school lunch from Akshaya Patra Foundation, which receives financial support from the Indian Government.

Professional Development and Community Assistance Projects

Leland Fellows receive professional development funds (PDF) each year of their fellowship to enhance their skills and understanding of particular issues related to international development. Many Fellows use these funds to improve their language ability or attend workshops and conferences that will improve their knowledge base and/or skill set. In San Salvador, **Michelle Petrotta** used her PDF to attend a week-long short course on capitalism in Latin America. In Ghana, **Racey Bingham** attended the Water, Engineering and Development Centre International Conference while **Meaghan Murphy** and **Kurt Burja** traveled to Vietnam to participate in the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition's Annual Conference. In April,

Carmen Jaquez attended the Livestock and Global Climate Change conference organized by the British Society of Animal Science in Tunisia. Both **Daniele Nyirandutiye** (Mali) and **Erica Phillips** (Haiti) returned to Washington, D.C. to attend the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance-sponsored international workshop entitled "Integration of Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition."

Adam Norikane (Zambia) and **Racey Bingham** (Mali) have proposed small development projects for the communities with which they work. These small projects have been approved by a committee consisting of Leland alumni and will be funded by CHC. Adam proposed a project to create a home gardening demonstration plot

Erica Phillips, Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow placed in Haiti with Partners in Health, speaks with two members of a community agriculture association in Boucan Carre.

for a rural farming household in Zambia, while Racey's proposal involves providing a community in Sokolo, Mali the means to obtain seeds to grow new vegetable varieties. The Mali project, which will be managed by a local community association, also will provide agricultural training with the ultimate goal of increasing income and improving nutrition within the community. While the small grants program of the Leland Fellowship may fall



outside the realm of Fellows' work plans, it provides funding for projects that Fellows identify as valuable for the communities in which they are working. ●

Alumni Update

Congratulations to **Amy Damon**, 1st Class Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows alumna, who recently secured a tenure track professor position at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She will teach in their economics department, specifically focusing on economic development. Among the courses she will be teaching is one on the economics of global food problems.

Michael Manske, 3rd Class Leland alumnus, will be joining Leland alumni **Daniel Abbott, Jodie Fonseca**, and **Mette Karlsen** at Save the Children. Mike will work in the Hunger and Malnutrition Unit as a health and nutrition specialist. Congratulations, Mike! ●



Third Class Leland alumnae Damiana Astudillo and Sylvie Doutriaux attend CHC's 15th Anniversary Gala. Both Damiana and Sylvie work as Program Officers focusing on agriculture for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). While Damiana works with countries with compacts in Latin America and Cape Verde, Sylvie's time is spent working on MCC's compacts in West Africa. Both are based at MCC's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

CHC Executive Director Receives National Award

CHC proudly announces that Edward M. Cooney, executive director, has been awarded the **2008 Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition** by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) and the School Nutrition Association (SNA). Mr. Cooney received this award at the 5th Annual *A Possible Dream Gala* in March in Washington, D.C. The award honors national leaders who advocate for improved childhood nutrition. Past recipients include **Senators Bob Dole** and **George McGovern**, **Dr. Josephine Martin**, and **Ms. Catherine Bertini** of



the World Food Program. The award's namesake, **Gene White**, is an extraordinary woman who continues to dedicate her life to children and the benefits of good nutrition. Congratulations, Ed!

Leland Fellows' Conference Presentations

Two Mickey Leland Fellows presented papers at international conferences this spring:

● **Alder Keleman** addressed a panel at the "Food Security and Environmental Change" conference in Oxford, United Kingdom, in April 2008. Her paper examined the recent biofuels-induced increase in tortilla prices and is entitled "Biofuels and Food Security."

● **Adam Norikane** spoke at a conference, "Interrogating Diversity: Representation, Power, and Social Justice" at American University in March 2008. His presentation covered "Restructuring Community Forestry: A Look at Tenure, Institutions and Gender in The Gambia" and was part of a panel which examined interdisciplinary contributions to environmental policy and practice. ●

2008 Victory Against Hunger Awards

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) and Victory Wholesale Group are pleased to announce the 2008 Victory Against Hunger Awards theme. Twenty-five unrestricted \$1,000 grants will be available to organizations building innovative "Farm to School" programs. We chose this theme because of the well-established

relationship between access to nutritious food and a child's ability to learn. These programs connect farms that provide fresh and seasonal foods to school programs. The nomination period began April 1 and continues through July 3, 2008. To apply, visit our website <http://www.hungercenter.org/CHC/news29.htm>



Victory Wholesale Group

Photos of 15th Anniversary Gala



Photo by Sonny Odom

Rep. Emerson (left) and Carl Hausmann President and CEO of Bunge North America (right).



Leland International Fellows alums Michael Johnson (1st Class) and Chung Lai (2nd Class).



Photo by Sonny Odom

Current Emerson Hunger Fellows and alum celebrate together. From left to right, Adrienne Alexander (15th class), Srinidhi Vijaykumar (14th class), Sarah Sibley (14th class), and Julie Ferreira (15th class).



Photo by Sonny Odom

USDA Under Secretary Nancy Montanez-Johner (center), Patricia Mancía (far left), join CHC deputy and executive directors, Margaret Zeigler and Ed Cooney at the gala.



Photo by Sonny Odom

From left to right, Cathy O'Rourke, Altria Client Services Inc.; Amina Dickerson, Kraft Foods; Kristy Tsadick, Caplin and Drysdale; and Annette Finch, Altria Client Services Inc.



Photo by Sonny Odom

Michael Dykes, Grant Erdel, and Jerry Steiner from Monsanto; Tom Verdoorn from Land O'Lakes.



Photo by Sonny Odom

CHC staff members Sherian Roggeband and Mohamed Gurey.



CHC staff members Elizabeth Whelan and Aileen Carr.



Photo by Sonny Odom

From left to right, Jerry Slominski and Connie Tipton, of International Dairy Foods Association; Barbara Hiden, American Beverage Association.



Photo by Sonny Odom

Rep. Frank Wolf (right) speaks with current 15th Class Emerson National Hunger Fellows David Kane, Elizabeth Oquendo, and Gagan Gupta.



Photo by Sonny Odom

Chris Hess, Chip Kunde, and Reggie Samuel from Darden Restaurants; Margaret Zeigler, CHC deputy director.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Every four or five years, Congress reviews and makes program and policy changes to the National School Lunch Act of 1946 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1996. These statutes authorize the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Summer Food, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs, as well as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

CHC is a member of the Child Nutrition Forum Steering Committee. This group of educators, school

meals officials, child advocates, unions, religious organizations, and nutrition and health professionals meets every five years to discuss, debate, and form position statements on major nutrition program and policy issues. These issues are likely to include:

- New nutrition standards for “competitive foods” (foods that are sold in competition with school lunches).
- Increased school lunch reimbursements to meet the challenges of improving the quality of school lunch.

- Possible elimination of the 40-cents per student charge for a reduced price lunch.
- Program improvements and expansions in the school breakfast, CACFP, school lunch, summer food, and WIC programs.

The Forum had its first meeting on the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill in late April. In the Senate, the Senate Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over child nutrition programs. In the House, one significant change is that jurisdiction for these programs has shifted

from the House Education and Labor Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education subcommittee to the Healthy Families and Communities subcommittee. **Representative Carolyn McCarthy** (D-NY) is the chair of this subcommittee, which has fewer Congressional Members than the previous authorization subcommittee. This is the first time this subcommittee will mark up a child nutrition reauthorization bill. ●

Planning for the Future

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) has grown and diversified our mission and programs since our founding in 1993. We have a full staff of 12 and operate two acclaimed fellowship programs, as well as additional anti-hunger education and policy initiatives. Since 1993, we have not conducted a formal review of our mission and our strategic objectives, or analyzed our future directions. Under an Altria technical assistance and capacity building grant, CHC is leading a Strategic Planning Process (SPP) which will produce a newly revised mission, vision, and governance structure and make major recommendations for CHC areas such as Programs/Initiatives, Fundraising, Communications and Marketing, and Management and Operations.

Since May 2007, CHC has worked with the TCC Group of Philadelphia to learn from our stakeholders and partners in the domestic and international anti-hunger community. We have consulted with board, staff, Emerson and Leland alumni, Emerson and Leland program host organizations, and foundation and corporate leaders to survey our strengths, opportunities, and challenges for the future. As part of this SPP, CHC leaders and staff are thinking critically about our mission and vision, and have made recommendations for improving our board governance and management and operations, as well as fundraising activities.

CHC will present our final recommendations to our Board of Directors for discussion and adoption this summer. We thank all our



CHC board members, Karen Coble Edwards and Elizabeth Emerson Leger (center back), with (from left to right) CHC staff Angelina Pérez, Joy Wiskin, Elizabeth Whelan, and from TCC Group Ana Ramos-Hernandez discuss strategic objectives for our SPP.

staff, board, and partners for their critical support during this year-long process. We particularly thank Altria Corporate Services for providing the funding to launch us on this exciting journey.

Stay tuned for the next issue of *Sustenance* in which we will share with you our new mission, vision and plans for our initiatives in the coming five years! ●

CHC Welcomes New Staff

Welcome Jon

Jonathan Wogman comes to CHC from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He graduated in May 2007 with a major in Political Science and a double minor in Film and International Studies. Jon is also a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. He has joined CHC's management team as the receptionist/office assistant.



We are more than excited to have him join CHC. Welcome Jon! ●

Welcome Dara

CHC is thrilled to welcome Dara Cooper as the Emerson Program Fellowship Advisor. Dara has partnered with the Emerson program for many

years, serving as a field site supervisor to many Emerson Fellows at the Center for Economic Progress in Chicago. She has more than 11 years of community development experience in local, national, and international antipoverty and social justice organizations and brings expertise in low-income tax credits, community health interventions, and community organizing. She also conducted research on HIV treatment access at the Treatment Action Campaign in South Africa.



Dara has an M.A. in community development from North Park University and a B.A. in psychology, African American and African studies from The Ohio State University.



Sherian Roggeband (left) and Jindra Cekan (right).

Welcome Jindra

Jindra Cekan is a training and technical assistance consultant for the International Hunger Fellows Program. She brings over 25 years of experience. Jindra holds a Ph.D. in political economy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and has held numerous positions dealing with food and livelihood security at private voluntary organizations (PVO's). ●

Farewell to Sherian Roggeband

CHC wishes a fond farewell to Sherian Roggeband, Director of Operations and Human Resources, upon her transition to Helios HR, a human resources consulting organization, where she will work as a Human Resources Business Partner. Sherian

has contributed so much in numerous areas to CHC since her arrival in December, 2001 – everything from professional human resources management and strategic organizational business support to grants and special events management.

She will be impossible to replace, and we will sorely miss Sherian after she leaves in early June, 2008. Congratulations on your new job, Sherian, and thank you for all you have done for CHC! ●

Welcome Levi and Congrats Kristin!

We are excited to introduce our latest addition to the CHC family. Levi Guthrie Anderson-White was born on February 16, 2008.

Congratulations to Kristin Anderson, Kevin White, and big sister Laila! ●



Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress
CHC Board Co-Chair
Honorable James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
CHC Board Co-Chair
Honorable Byron Dorgan
Member of Congress
Honorable Dennis Hertel
Member of Congress (Retired)
Attorney at Law
The Livingston Group, L.L.P.
Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress
Honorable Frank Wolf
Member of Congress
Ashley Aakesson
Executive Director
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti
David Beckmann
President
Bread for the World
Cal Dooley
President and CEO
GMA
Karen Coble Edwards
Principal
KCE Public Affairs Association
Elizabeth Emerson-Leger
President
The Leger Company, Inc.
Vicki B. Escarra
President and CEO
America's Second Harvest-The Nation's Food Bank Network
Brian Folkerts
Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs
Kraft Foods
Al Franken
Actor/Comedian
Lou Gerber
Legislative Director
Communications Workers of America
David Kantor
President
Victory Wholesale Group
Marshall Matz
Partner
Olsson, Frank and Weeda, P.C.
Manly Molpus
President
The Molpus Advisory Group, L.L.C.
John R. Sander
U.S. Department of State, (Retired)
Management Consultant
Jim Scheibel
Instructor
Hamline University
Mary Catherine Toker
VP, Government Relations
General Mills, Inc.
Edward M. Cooney
Executive Director
Dr. Margaret M. Zeigler
Deputy Director
Ambassador Tony P. Hall
Founder
Ambassador Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey
Founding Director

In Memory Of:
Honorable Bill Emerson
Honorable Mickey Leland

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